

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 08482 191724Z  
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 /028 W  
-----200047Z 088320 /64

R 191635Z MAY 77  
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5235  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO

E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: ASEC  
SUBJ: PROBLEMS WITH COM'S 1974 CHRYSLER

1. WHILE RETURNING FROM ALEXANDRIA ON 14 MAY, CHRYSLER DEVELOPED MECHANICAL PROBLEMS WHICH CAUSED IT TO BE DEADLINED IMMEDIATELY UPON RETURN. EMBASSY FSL MECHANIC REPAIRED POORLY TUNED ENGINE AND ALSO ADVISED THAT HE REPAIRED DAMAGED MUFFLER. CHRYSLER WAS BACK IN USE ON SUNDAY, MAY 15.

2. ON MAY 17, AMBASSADOR WAS AGAIN REQUIRED TO TRAVEL TO ALEXANDRIA. EMBASSY MECHANIC ASSURED SY DETAIL THAT CAR WAS IN EXCELLENT OPERATING CONDITION AND COULD MAKE THE TRIP WITHOUT A HITCH. SHORTLY AFTER DEPARTING ALEXANDRIA, AIR CONDITIONING STOPPED AND APPROXIMATELY 30 MINUTES LATER SMOKE BEGAN TO BILLOW FROM UNDER THE HOOD AND THE ENGINE STALLED. AC BELT, FAN BELT AND ALTERNATOR BELT WERE ALL DESTROYED, APPARENTLY CAUSED BY AIR CONDITIONER OVERHEATING. AMBASSADOR ABANDONED VEHICLE AND RETURNED TO CAIRO IN SY LEAD VEHICLE. CONGEN ALEXANDRIA DISPATCHED NCOIC AND MECHANIC WHO FOLLOWED CHRYSLER BACK TO CAIRO. THEY WERE MET BY  
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EMBASSY MECHANIC WITH REPLACEMENT BELTS APPROXIMATELY 20 MILES OUTSIDE OF CAIRO AND NEW BELTS WERE INSTALLED. AIR CONDITIONING DID NOT OPERATE AFTER INSTALLATION OF BELTS, BUT VEHICLE WAS ABLE TO LIMP BACK TO EMBASSY WITHOUT FURTHER DIFFICULTIES.

3. ON 18 MAY, WITH AMBASSADOR'S APPROVAL AND CONCURRENCE

OF NAMRU-3 COMMANDER, RSO DISPATCHED CHRYSLER TO NAMRU VEHICLE MAINTENANCE SHOP TO HAVE A/C PROBLEM ANALYZED AND REPAIRED IF POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO NAMRU CHIEF MECHANIC, WHO HAPPENED TO HAVE WORKED IN WHITE HOUSE MOTOR POOL, RUNNING MAINTENANCE SECTION FOR APPROXIMATELY TWO YEARS, THE BEARING IN THE AIR CONDITIONING CLUTCH FROZE WHICH CAUSED THE A/C COIL AND AIR COMPRESSOR TO BURN OUT. NAMRU REPLACED COMPRESSOR, CLUTCH AND COIL AND IS PRESENTLY CONDUCTING FURTHER REQUIRED MAINTENANCE ON RIGHT FRONT DOOR, MUFFLER AND TUNE UP OF ENGINE. THEY ALSO PLAN TO PAINT THE VEHICLE AND IT WILL BE RETURNED IN OPERATING CONDITION ON MONDAY, MAY 23.

4. AFTER MORE THAN TWO YEARS OF ATTEMPTING TO MAINTAIN COM VEHICLES AT EMBASSY MOTOR POOL, WE HAVE DECIDED TO USE NAMRU 3 VEHICLE MAINTENANCE FACILITY FOR BOTH CHRYSLER AND FORD. POST WILL MAKE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH NAMRU FOR THIS SUPPORT. DEPARTMENT AND ATHENS WILL BE ADVISED OF REPLACEMENT PARTS TAKEN FROM NAMRU SUPPLY AND INSTALLED IN CHRYSLER. WILL ADVISE WHEN THIS DATA AVAILABLE.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Review Markings:**  
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